

VIA: AIR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

SPATCH NO. SGAA- 10870
KAPOK-2731

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

JUL 19 1954

TO : Chief, SE

DATE: _____

FROM : Attn: []

[] Pm

SUBJECT: GENERAL— OBHUNT

SPECIFIC— Security Review of FIG Team Operations

REF: SGAW 4297 KAPOK 314, 12 April 1954

Headquarters' Action Required

None - for information and files

1. Field has carefully studied Headquarters' review of the FIG Tree Team operation. As [] was the operational officer and as Headquarters was forwarded all the pertinent information on hand in our files, we cannot volunteer information for the review. We did, however, acquire answers to queries, such as those set forth under para 18 recommendations, by going to the team.

2. AIRWISE was contacted on 23 June 1954 by [] and furnished some information. However, it must be remembered that his memory is somewhat faulty as to details concerning his past experiences.

3. The answers to Headquarters queries are keyed to the reference:

A. 18-A Olga Gargzouni

PRQ I was forwarded to Headquarters on 29 May 1954 as attachment to SGAA 10240.

B. 18-B and para - 6. Question of AIRSPRAY's security:

It is AIRWISE and [] opinion that AIRSPRAY was never classified by the Greeks as a "security risk". Long before the friction between [] office and AIRSPRAY developed he had expressed his desire to work exclusively

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for KUBARK to AIRWISE and other KUBARK agents. Nevertheless, AIRSPRAY continued to work for [] until October 1952. It was about this time [] received an urgent telephone call from [] Albanian Section officer, (Identity 1) who requested an immediate interview with []. [] and [] proceeded to the [] offices where, to their surprise, they were informed that AIRSPRAY had suddenly developed into a coward and disrespectful agent, therefore, he had been dismissed and isolated on an "unknown" island. (Identity 1) requested that our service not approach AIRSPRAY.

During our recent interrogation of AIRWISE he revealed that he had accompanied AIRSPRAY on his October 1952 guide mission with this team as well as the 1952 WILLOW and APPLE infiltrations. To the best of our knowledge this is new information as it was our impression based on debriefings, that only AIRSPRAY had accompanied our teams. Not only had AIRSPRAY and his three-man team accompanied FIG team on its infiltration, but they continued to operate in Albania on a separate mission for [] and were furnished with 2,000 Lek for operating expenses. AIRWISE confirmed AIRWISE's statement of AIRSPRAY and his team accompanying FIG on their infiltration. AIRSPRAY is now at Lavrion and to the best of our knowledge not being used by any service.

C. 18-C and 8-C "Host" group which posed as Nationalists.

AIRWISE advises that during the October 1952 mission FIG team was informed by the sons of (Identity 9) of reference that an old man whose name AIRWISE cannot remember, was approached, while plowing in his fields, by a 6-8 man group who were dressed in guerilla fashion and armed. They immediately told the old man that they were AIRWISE's contacts and were badly in need of food. The old man fell into the trap by giving them food. Subject was later arrested by the group and it became widely known that they were disguised Sigurimi agents. Subject was beaten, interrogated for two days, and later released.

Upon release, Subject declared that he had revealed nothing to the Sigurimi. AIRWISE or his team had never contacted this man. AIRWISE contacts told him that the man could not have given any information on his team, and that Subject had only been used as a secondary contact of (Identity 13) of reference. (Identity 13) was not arrested immediately but in September of 1953 FIG learned that he had been arrested in August of 1953 and accused of having supplied AIRWISE with food. The above incident took place in Plovisht and not in Krushove.

AIRWISE went on

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AIRWISE went on to state that the guerrilla disguise technique of the Sigurimi has been extensively used in the Plovist area and on occasions has been used in Tresova. AIRWISE says use of the technique has failed.

D. 1800 and Para 11 - 1953 Ambush

Following is AIRWISE's present account of the 16-17 August 1953 Ambush:

FIG team crossed the border at approximately 2100 hours and for about three quarters of an hour walked in a northerly direction along the hills east of Nikolica and west of the main ridge of Arez. This was an infiltration route which the team had used before. However, due to the terrain which at one point, a field and stream crossing, forms a natural ambush the team was proceeding cautiously with the three rifle men marching in single file, RNDOLLAR, the W/T, and AIRWISE brought up the rear. As they were crossing the narrow field situated between two hills which were part of the natural ambush formation, they received gun fire from two automatics and two or three rifles which were posted on both hills commanding the field which the team had started across. AIRWISE and RNDOLLAR began retreating at top speed along the infiltration route and crossed the Greek frontier without incident. The three rifle men advanced through the ambush and penetrated deeper into the country where they hid for two days before successfully exfiltrating at Porta Osman.

AIRWISE believes that the team fell into a natural ambush and that no betrayal or advanced information caused the ambush. He supported his belief by pointing out that the terrain at the spot of the ambush offered a natural ambush. When asked why they had attempted to pass through a natural ambush AIRWISE explained that it had been done before without mishap and that almost any infiltration route will offer a natural ambush somewhere and as the route they used was the easiest and quickest, he felt it warranted taking the chance.

4. [] name should be added to the roster of staff personnel involved in the 1952 operation as he was in Athens on the field desk during [] visit to the United States.

5. The conclusions presented in reference have been carefully studied in the field and incorporated into field practice wherever applicable.

Attachment:

(Identity 1) under separate cover

13 July 1954

RTM RMW RSO

RTM/RMW/RSO/rs1

Distribution

- 3 - Wash w/att. under separate cover ✓
- 1 - Wash (Vital Documents) w/att. under separate cover
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SEPARATE COVER ATTACHMENT TO: SGAA-10870

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Dated-

Identity 1 is: Major Deamandopoulos

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